offers, when received, would have to be considered on the basis of technical suitability, economic attractiveness, regulatory requirements of our country, and the conditions attached to the offers.

(b) No, Sir. The Kaiga Units 1 and 2, which are in operation, and Kaiga Units 3 and 4, which are under construction, belong to the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a public sector undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, without private sector participation. No decision has yet been taken to set up a nuclear power project in Punjab.

(c) Irrespective of whether a nuclear power project is set up with or without private sector participation, the safety requirements, in accordance with the stipulations of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), are required to be enforced and complied with.

Subsidy in selling FCI rice to traders

4137. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to let foreigners buy Indian rice at the same price at which families living below the poverty line here buy it from ration shops;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy given by Government in selling FCI rice to traders for such exports; and

(c) the quantity of rice exported, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been permitted to offer rice for export at the following rates :—

(i)	Raw rice	Rs. 5,650 per MT
(ii)	Parboiled rice	Rs.6,000 per MT

The Central Issue Price (CIP) of rice for BPL families is Rs.5,650 per MT.

The Government does not provide any cash subsidy to the exporters. However, the export prices of rice are lower than the FCI's economic cost, which is Rs.11,760 per MT. The export prices have been fixed keeping in view, *inter-alia*, the international prices.

(c) 1,30,876 MT of rice has been exported so far.

Meeting of CMs with PM on demands of paddy growers

4138. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Chief Ministers have recently met the Prime Minister and presented some demands on behalf of paddy growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana met the Prime Minister on August 9,2001 and raised the following demands on behalf of paddy growers:—

(i) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Paddy for Kharif procurement season 2001-2002 be increased by Rs.50 per quintal over and above the last year's MSP both for Common as well as Grade 'A' Paddy.

(ii) The Centre should take on greater responsibility through the Food Corporation of India in sharing the procurement responsibilities in the producing States alongwith State procurement agencies and others.